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LETTER DATED 7 AUGUST 1992 FROM THE REPRESENTATIVES OF BELGIUM, FRANCE AND THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

We have the honour to bring to your attention the text of a declaration on Yugoslavia adopted by the European Community and its member States at London and Brussels on 6 August 1992.

We should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Frans VAN DAELE
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
of Belgium to the United Nations

(Signed) Jean-Marc ROCHEREAU DE LA SABLIERE
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of
France to the United Nations

(Signed) David HANNAY
Permanent Representative of the
United Kingdom to the United Nations

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Annex

Statement on Yugoslavia

[Original: English and French]

The Community and its member States view with deep concern recent press reports alleging that a large number of Bosnian civilians are being detained in camps against their will by the local Serbian authorities in eastern and northern Bosnia and Herzegovina and subjected to ill-treatment. The Community and its member States wholeheartedly endorse the Security Council statement of 4 August and call upon the authorities in Belgrade to use their influence with the Serbs in Bosnia and Herzegovina to allow international observers, above all members of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) immediate and unconditional access to the sites of all camps, prisons and detention centres being used for the detention of prisoners in order to investigate the allegations of ill-treatment. The Community and its member States condemn the existence of such camps, which it finds repulsive and despicable, and expect that ICRC will be allowed free and continuous access to all camps, prisons and detention centres in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Community and its member States are appalled by the blatant disregard for humanitarian principles shown by some parties to the conflict. They have repeatedly made clear that they condemn all forced expulsions on the grounds of ethnic background and all attacks on civilians, whoever is the perpetrator. Attacks on unarmed civilians are wholly contrary to the basic precepts of international humanitarian law.

The Community and its member States recall that the Security Council has made clear that all parties to the conflict in former Yugoslavia are bound to comply with obligations under international humanitarian law and in particular the Geneva Conventions. Persons who commit or order the commission of grave breaches of the Conventions bear individual responsibility for such breaches.